



**Gary A. Brown**  
President Pro Tem  
Detroit City Council

# Legislative Agenda Overview

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## THE FIRST 100 DAYS

### OVERVIEW

As the Detroit City Council President Pro Tem, Gary Brown is collaborating with colleagues to restore unity and order so that focusing on the many challenges facing our city will remain at the top of the agenda.

The President Pro Tem is serving as chair of the Public Health and Safety Standing Committee with responsibility for police, fire, water department, public lighting, dangerous buildings, transportation, and the health department. He is also a representative of the City Council as a board member with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), the Detroit Historical Society and the Eastern Market District.

### BUDGET

- The number one responsibility of Detroit City Council is to be the fiduciary for Detroit taxpayers, and President Pro Tem Brown takes this very seriously.
  - Council will begin budget hearings in April after receiving the draft budget from the mayor's office.
  - President Pro Tem Brown believes all services are on the table for discussion including re-directing resources, consolidation or elimination with the exception of public safety and the water department.
- Everyone involved in Detroit needs to explore all opportunities to eliminate the deficit. City employees are already making sacrifices; therefore the President Pro Tem is asking contractors, vendors and quasi-governmental agencies to make cuts as well.
  - President Pro Tem Brown is urging contractors, vendors and quasi-governmental agencies to make 10-percent reductions in their costs and if they do not he will vote NO on these contracts.
  - The City is operating under a \$75-100 Million deficit this year in addition to the structural deficit of more than \$300 Million – the President Pro Tem believes all means to make cuts must be made.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

- It is no secret that the Detroit Police Department (DPD) has limited resources for the size of our city and the scope of crime.
  - After serving with DPD for 26 years, most recently as Deputy Chief, the President Pro Tem is fully aware of the resources and capabilities, available.
  - President Pro Tem Brown is working alongside the Bing administration to maximize local, state and federal dollars; responsibly address issues brought to the forefront by the federal monitor; and encourage improved efficiencies such as using civilians to perform desk duty to move more patrol officers to the streets.
- One significant means to bring more police officers to the streets without added cost to the City of Detroit is to institute a Secondary Employment program.
  - President Pro Tem Brown made a commitment to assist in implementing the program during the campaign.
  - The Secondary Employment program will allow trained officers to work private security during off-duty hours for businesses and neighborhood associations.
  - The program involves businesses entering contracts with DPD to employ officers for security work in their uniforms with their assigned weapons and scout cars.
  - It will provide DPD an opportunity to move on-duty officers to neighborhoods that don't have regular security patrols which overall places more officers on our streets.
  - It is expected that the program will be in place within his first 100 days in office.

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## **THE FIRST 100 DAYS (continued)**

### **VACANT HOUSING**

- There are approximately 10,000 vacant homes in Detroit that cause both blight and safety issues.
  - The City of Detroit has \$14 Million in federal stimulus funds plus \$21 Million in an insurance escrow account from burnt-out homes to apply to a concentrated demolition program.
  - It costs the city \$10,000 on average to demolish each home.
  - President Pro Tem Brown will work with the Bing administration to fast-track the process.
- Identifying and clustering the most dangerous structures as opposed to the scattered site demolition approach is what President Pro Tem Brown will encourage.
  - Utilizing the available funds, it is expected that at least 2,500 homes will be demolished this year.
  - The City of Detroit cannot address all the vacant structures, so we must make a plan and take action where it has the greatest impact on Detroit residents.

### **311 CALL CENTER**

- The purpose of 311 was to give residents one resource to request City service assistance and file complaints where they would then be addressed.
  - During the campaign many residents said that 311 takes their complaints with no follow-up action.
  - President Pro Tem Brown believes that if 311 is offered to residents with City resources committed to the service, it should deliver on its promise to become a “solution center” as opposed to a complaint-taking call center.
  - President Pro Tem Brown will meet with administration officials and work with council colleagues to gather the facts, best practices from other cities, and begin addressing improvements in this vital service.

Visit [www.GaryBrown4Detroit.com](http://www.GaryBrown4Detroit.com) to keep posted to Detroit City Council President Pro Tem Gary Brown’s progress.

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